Coordinates: 52.167°N 10.533°E

Herzog August Library

The **Herzog August Library** (German: *Herzog August Bibliothek* — "HAB"), in Wolfenbüttel, Lower Saxony, known also as *Bibliotheca Augusta*, is a library of international importance for its collection from the Middle Ages and early modern Europe. The library is overseen by the Lower Saxony Ministry for Science and Culture.

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History

The library was founded by Julius, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg in 1572.[1] In the 17th century it was the largest library north of the Alps. The library was named after Duke Augustus (1579–1666), who greatly enlarged the collection, which was kept at Wolfenbüttel. Armies passed by, back and forth, over the centuries, but the collection was well protected. It was so highly regarded that generals placed the library under special protection, and the library is one of the oldest in the world to have never suffered loss to its collection.[2]

In 2006 the library housed around 11,500 manuscripts and 900,000 books, of which 350,000 were printed between the 15th to 18th centuries.[3] Of these, 3,500 are incunabula, 75,000 are from the sixteenth century, 150,000 are from the seventeenth century, and 120,000 are from the eighteenth century.[2]

Notable librarians have included:

- 1604–1666: Augustus the Younger, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg
- 1691–1716: Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
- 1770–1781: Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
- 1968–1992: Paul Raabe

Herzog August Library

Detail

Established	1572
Location	Wolfenbüttel, Germany
Collection	
Items collected	books, journals, newspapers, magazines, multimedia and manuscripts
Other information	
Director	Peter Burschel
Website	www.hab.de (http://www.hab.de)
Map	

The library is famed for its research and for the hundreds of international scholars who collaborate with the library staff on various projects. Its research programs are described as exploring the "history of international relations, or the history of culture, ideas, and politics ... social history, the history of religion, business, science and law, constitutional history, the history of society, [and] women and gender from the Middle Ages to Early Modern Times".[2]

Main building of the Herzog August Bibliothek

Significant Manuscripts

- The famous palimpsest *Codex Guelferbytanus 64 Weissenburgensis*, which contains in the lower text Codex Guelferbytanus A, Codex Guelferbytanus B, and Codex Carolinus.
- Gospels of Henry the Lion
- Liber Floridus ca. 1150
- Minuscule 97
- Minuscule 126
- Minuscule 429
- Nine volumes from the library of Matthias Corvinus
- Schönrainer Liederhandschrift
- Visio Godeschalci
- Corpus Agrimensorum Romanorum
- Magnus liber organi, manuscripts W1 and W2
- Luther's Wolfenbuttel Psalter the only extant copy of Luther's glosses of his lectures on the Psalms beginning 1513.

Entrance to the Library

Duke Augustus in his library (1650) by Conrad Buno

Augusteerhalle

References

1. Christa Graefe: *Staatsklugheit und Frömmigkeit. Herzog Julius zu Braunschweig-Lüneburg, ein norddeutscher Landesherr des 16. Jahrhunderts.* Weinheim 1989, ISBN 3-527-17822-8, S. 90f.
2. Murray, Stuart A. P. (2012). *The Library: An Illustrated History*. New York, NY: Skyhorse Publishing. pp. 284–285.
3. A view on the project and Themenportale: HAB - Digitalisierungsprojekte (http://www.hab.de/bibliothek/wdb/projekte.htm).

Further reading

- *Herzog-August-Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel*, ed. Andrea Kastens (Braunschweig: Westermann, 1978), ISSN 0341-8634 (https://www.worldcat.org/search?fq=x0:jrnl&q=n2:0341-8634)
- *Die Herzog-August-Bibliothek und Wolfenbüttel*, ed. Leo G. Linder (Braunschweig, 1997), ISBN 3-07-509702-0
- *A treasure house of books: the library of Duke August of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel (an exhibition at the Grolier Club, 8 December 1998 through 6 February 1999)*, ed. Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer

(Wiesbaden, 1998), ISBN 3-447-04119-6
- *The German book in Wolfenbüttel and abroad. Studies presented to Ulrich Kopp in his retirement*, ed. William A. Kelly & Jürgen Beyer (Tartu: University of Tartu Press, 2014), ISBN 978-9949-32-494-1

External links

- Official website (http://www.hab.de/en/home.html) (in English)
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Sammlung Deutscher Drucke (https://web.archive.org/web/20120223081301/http://www.ag-sdd.de/) (in German)
- Bücherrad im Museum "Das Alte Zollhaus" in Hitzacker (https://web.archive.org/web/20140903212929/http://www.museum-hitzacker.de/herzog_august.html) (in German)

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